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The Court of Appeal of Alberta

Notice to the Profession

EMERGENCY NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION

July 3, 2001

COURT OF APPEAL CALGARY SITTINGS FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 1, 2001

It is with great regret that the Court of Appeal announces that it has taken the unprecedented step of suspending its Calgary operations effective September 1, 2001, due to the lack of healthy and functional court facilities.

This decision was not taken lightly, but continuing health problems coupled with fragmented Court operations have impaired the Court's ability to provide service to the public.

It has been more than 5 months since the old Court of Appeal courthouse was closed due to health concerns and the Court remains without court facilities.

Approximately 2/3 of judges and 3/4 of staff who worked in the old courthouse continue to suffer from respiratory and other health problems that prevent them working at full capacity.

In addition, the Court is struggling to cope with a serious operational issue which has disrupted its proper functioning. Since the old courthouse was closed, judges have been separated from everything needed to do their jobs: a library, files, court staff, the registry, mediation rooms and courtrooms.

We have tried very hard to make this emergency arrangement work. But these fractured court operations are seriously compromising this Court's ability to serve the public's needs and yours, as counsel for your clients.

The proposed integrated Calgary courthouse facility is not a solution to this Court's immediate problem. If government proceeds with this facility, it will not be open for at least 6 years. In the meantime, the Court requires healthy and functional court facilities so that we can meet our obligations to the public.

For the past several months, the Court has worked diligently to arrange suitable alternate accommodation in order that the work of the Court could continue uninterrupted. To date, however, no acceptable space has been approved by the Department of Justice. In addition, even when premises are leased, the lead time involved in fixturing them as a court will be approximately 6 to 9 months.

We are striving to minimize disruption to the public. We plan to carry on with the Calgary sittings and chambers currently scheduled for the summer.

All appeals set down for hearing in Calgary after September 1, 2001 will be rescheduled. There will be an **emergency speaking to the list on Wednesday, July 25, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. in the Queen's Bench building** for all appeals set for hearing in Calgary after September 1, 2001. It is our intention to immediately accommodate appeals of an urgent nature, sentence appeals and motions in Edmonton to the extent possible. It may also be necessary to reschedule some Edmonton appeals.

For now, the Court Registry office will remain open in the Queen's Bench building. However, it would be appreciated if all documents could be sent directly to the Registry office in Edmonton for filing.

This is an extraordinary situation which we will be monitoring on a constant basis. We thank you for your patience, cooperation and understanding during this difficult time.

"Catherine A. Fraser"

Chief Justice of Alberta



The Court of Appeal of Alberta

Notice to the Profession

July 24, 2001

The 2002 Sitting Dates for the Court of Appeal of Alberta in Edmonton are set out in the attached page.

“Catherine A. Fraser”

Fraser, C.J.A.

2002

COURT OF APPEAL OF ALBERTA

SITTINGS OF THE COURT OF APPEAL OF ALBERTA FOR THE YEAR 2002 WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

PLACE OF SITTING	GENERAL APPEAL HEARINGS - OPENING DAY ¹	SENTENCE SITTINGS - OPENING DAY ¹	MOTIONS COURT DAY ¹
EDMONTON	MON. JAN. 7	MON. JAN. 21	FRI. JAN. 25
EDMONTON	MON. JAN. 28	MON. FEB. 11	FRI. FEB. 22
EDMONTON	MON. FEB. 25	MON. MAR. 4	FRI. MAR. 15
EDMONTON	MON. APR. 8	MON. APR. 15	FRI. APR. 26
EDMONTON	MON. MAY 6	MON. MAY 13	FRI. MAY 24
EDMONTON	MON. JUNE 3	MON. JUNE 10	FRI. JUNE 21
EDMONTON	MON. JULY 15 ²	---	---
EDMONTON	TUES. SEPT. 3	MON. SEPT. 16	FRI. SEPT. 20
EDMONTON	MON. SEPT. 30	TUES. OCT. 15	FRI. OCT. 25
EDMONTON	MON. OCT. 28	TUES. NOV. 12	FRI. NOV. 15
EDMONTON	MON. NOV. 25	MON. DEC. 2	FRI. DEC. 13

1. All sittings open at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise directed.
2. Limited to appeals - (1) Against sentence where the appellant is in custody and there is a reasonable possibility that the result of the appeal is that he or she might be released before the next regular sittings of the Court; (2) From conviction where the appellant is in custody and has been refused interim release pending appeal; (3) Such other cases which, because of urgency or special circumstances are directed to be heard by order of a Justice of Appeal.